

June, 2017 Edition

The Informer



From Our Chair:

By: Jennifer McDaniel, Dept. of Veteran Affairs, US Army, Administrative Assistant, USA Veteran

Hello my fellow veterans and those of you on the “friends and family plan”!! I trust each of you had a restful Memorial Day weekend with time to relax and reflect on its true meaning.

Now we are on to June. I had a little trouble coming up with something to write about for this month so I decided to look for some facts about military history for June. Below are a few facts that most of you may already be aware of but either way I thought this was interesting stuff.

June 6, 1944 - D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France. Operation Overlord took months of planning and involved 1,527,000 soldiers in 47 Allied divisions along with 4,400 ships and landing craft, and 11,000 aircraft. The Germans had about 60 divisions spread along France and the Low Countries. American forces landed on two western beaches, Utah and Omaha, while British and Canadian troops landed farther east on Gold, Juno and Sword beaches. By the end of the day 150,000 Allied soldiers and their accompanying vehicles had landed with 15,000 killed and wounded.

June 20, 1924 Birthday - American military hero and actor Audie Murphy (1924-1971) was born in Kingston, Texas. He was the most decorated American soldier of World War II, awarded 37 medals and decorations, including the [Medal of Honor](#) for single-handedly turning back a German infantry company by climbing on a burning U.S. tank destroyer and firing its .50-cal. machine gun, killing 50 Germans. He later became an actor in western and war movies and made 45 films including; *The Red Badge of Courage* (1951), *Destry* (1954), and *To Hell and Back* (1955), based on his autobiography. He died May 28, 1971, in a plane crash near Roanoke, Virginia.

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June 25, 1950 - The Korean War began as North Korean troops, led by Russian-built tanks, crossed the 38th parallel and launched a full scale invasion of South Korea. Five days later, U.S. ground forces entered the conflict, which lasted until July 27, 1953, when an armistice was signed at Panmunjom, formally dividing the country at the 38th parallel into North and South Korea.

Now having read the above facts you might think I'll be tying this altogether somehow. Well you would be wrong. I just think anything about WWII is worth knowing, Audie

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Murphy is perhaps one of the coolest guys to ever live, and facts about Korea right now just might be good to know.

So for the past year I have enjoyed being the Chair of the VERG. I have learned some things, met some good people, made some new friends, and kept some old ones. I appreciate all of you very much and thank you for all the work you have done for this group and your fellow veterans. I hope that you have learned some things from me. Take away what you can, keep what you need, leave what you don't, pass on what you found useful.

Good luck to the next set of Board members and I'll be around!!

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Armed Forces Day

By Paul Cruz, Dept. of Veterans Affairs (DVA), US Army, Strategic Operations Manager, USA Veteran,

The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated on Saturday, May 20, 1950. The theme for that day was “Teamed for Defense”, which expressed the unification of all military forces under one government department. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, the day was designed to expand public understanding of what type of job was performed and the role of the military in civilian life.



Each year, Americans come out to celebrate Armed Forces Day by the thousands. Many events take place in cities across the country to honor those who serve; activities often include parades, military service displays open to the public, educational exhibits to teach children about the armed forces, “Support the Troops” motorcycle rides and more. It is on this day that we recognize the sacrifice that men and women have made for our country as well as help educate the public’s knowledge on their armed services. Ensuring that the people of the United States understand just how powerful our military is gives them the confidence that we can effectively protect our national interests. By showcasing our military capabilities we help ensure that everyone understands our country as a world power and the role our military plays. Ronald Reagan summed it up in one of his Armed Forces Day Radio Addresses while in office. He says:

“One of the oldest truths in the world is that nothing worth having is cheap. And many times, the greater the good, the higher its cost. Keeping America free has cost us dearly over the centuries. Since 1776 we as a nation have lost thousands of lives and suffered thousands of injuries to guarantee our freedom. Preserving the peace also requires the daily toil of millions of men and women who, without fanfare and glory, serve to protect our freedom and security.” Ronald Reagan

His statements truly summarizes the importance of understanding not only what it costs to protect our freedom, but also, just how important it is to recognize those sacrifices.



Agencies Honor Walls

By Richard Worthy, Dept. of Enterprise Services (DES), US Army, Contracts Specialist, USA Veteran

thank you
Military Service Members



Honor Wall from Department of Natural Resources

During the month of November, several local VERG chapters established an Honor Wall to recognize the staff member who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in their departments. The Department of Natural Resources and Department of Transportation display one at their headquarters buildings, while the Attorney General's Office displays one in each of their satellite offices.

Each VERG Chapter invites their staff to bring a photograph to be included in the Veteran's Wall of Honor. The veterans are asked to provide their name, rank and branch of service to accompany their photo.



Honor Wall from Department of Transportation

Veterans are currently 9.1% of the total Washington State workforce. They have served in all branches of our armed forces and have served around the globe in both peace and conflict. Some are fresh out of uniform, while others have been in state service for years.

Thank you to all the veterans who have continued their legacy of service as employees with the State of Washington.



Honor Wall from the Attorney General's Office

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Upcoming Events

Rolling for Retsil	6/3/17	0930-1030	Kitsap	http://www.dva.wa.gov/rolling-retsil-hosted-brothers-arms-mc
SafeCo Military Hiring Fair & Free Mariners Tickets	6/27/17	1100-1400	Seattle	http://www.dva.wa.gov/safeco-military-hiring-fair-free-mariners-tickets-hosted-hiring-our-heroes

Tools & Resources

[Veterans Choice Health Care](#): VA health care includes regular checkups with your primary care doctor and access to specialists, such as cardiologists, gynecologists, and mental health providers. You can also get home health care and geriatric care, as well as medical equipment, prosthetics, and prescriptions.

[Connection Veterans to the Health Care they need in Washington](#): Bridging the gap between Health Care and Health Policy.

[WA Pathways to Employment \(Veterans Pages\)](#): Each year thousands of disabled military personnel return to the civilian labor force seeking rewarding and meaningful work. The resources in these pages can help you in your job search and your transition to civilian life.

[Working for Washington State](#) – Check out state employment opportunities and sign up for daily job postings sent to your email inbox.



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Do you have ideas or information to disseminate? Send your information with a Communications Request to the Communications Team and we will take action!

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